

Police Lines Curb French Red Protest

Washington Post Foreign Service

PARIS, Feb. 12 — About 2000 Communist-inspired demonstrators went through the motions of protesting against United States actions in Viet-Nam in the Place de la Concorde this evening, but competition from rush-hour traffic and the presence of possibly an equal number of police, kept them at a safe distance from their objective, the American Embassy, just off the Place.

French police had about ten city blocks completely closed off, partly because President de Gaulle was holding a reception for French cultural leaders in the Elysee Palace, just west of the Embassy, and the Nicaraguan Embassy was holding another in the Hotel Crillon, just east of it.

The crowd milled around the square, whenever the traffic would permit, chanting "Peace for Viet-Nam" and "American assassins."

No attempt was made to rush the police cordon around the Embassy, nor were parked cars in the area damaged. After about an hour of milling about the place, the crowd dispersed.

[In a later dispatch, United Press International said fighting broke out in scattered areas, that 152 persons were arrested, that 7 policemen were injured and 3 of them hospitalized.]

The general current of opinion here, both in official and private circles, is critical of American policy in Viet-Nam. One radio report from Wash-

ington today described President Johnson as seeking desperately for a solution to the problem, whereupon another broadcaster commented, "but Gen. de Gaulle offered him one and he turned it down automatically without even examining it."

[There were demonstrations elsewhere in Europe, Reuters reported. In Vienna, 50 persons demonstrated peaceably in front of the U.S. Embassy, and four of them were allowed to enter the building to deliver a protest note. In Oslo, about 50 Norwegian youths gathered outside the U.S. Embassy shouting "Yankees go home" and "leave Viet-Nam." Police broke up the authorized demonstration after the youths began shouting.]

Britain

From News Dispatches

LONDON, Feb. 12—The British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, George Thomson, was sent to Moscow today to consult with Soviet officials.

Government spokesmen insisted that Thomson's mission was to sign a renewed Anglo-Soviet cultural pact, but a Foreign Office spokesman also said the envoy "is likely to make a courtesy call on the Soviet Foreign Minister (Andrei Gromyko)," leading to speculation that the trip might represent a British initiative toward resolving the Viet-Nam crisis.

Britain and Russia are co-chairmen of the 1954 Geneva conference on Indochina, but neither has made any express commitment to reconvene the conference. British officials said today that the 1954 accords made no provision for continuing responsibilities of the two powers.